

CLAIMS

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows

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5 A midsole for an article of footwear comprising:

a body having an upper surface and a lower surface, said body defining a plurality of upper channels opening to said upper surface and a plurality of lower channels opening to said lower surface, said body further defining a plurality of openings interconnecting said upper channels and said lower channels.

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The midsole of claim 1 wherein said midsole has a defined thickness, said first channels defining a first depth and said second channels defining a second depth, the sum of said first depth and said second depth being greater than said thickness, whereby said openings are defined by intersection of said upper channels and said lower channels.

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The midsole of claim 1 wherein said midsole includes a forefoot portion, an arch portion, and a heel portion, said second channels being disposed approximately within at least one of said arch portion and said forefoot portion.

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20 The midsole of claim 1 wherein said midsole includes a front edge and a rear edge, said first channels passing approximately from said front edge to said rear edge.

The midsole of claim 1 wherein said upper channels extend longitudinally along said body.

5 The midsole of claim 1 wherein said lower channels extend laterally across said body.

An article of footwear, comprising:

a midsole having an upper surface and a lower surface, said midsole defining a 10 plurality of upper channels opening to said upper surface and a plurality of lower channels opening to said lower surface, said midsole further defining a plurality of openings interconnecting said upper channels and said lower channels intersecting to define a plurality of openings in a waffle type construction;

an upper attached to said midsole, said upper being manufactured from a 15 permeable material readily permitting passage of water; and

an outsole attached to said midsole to define a wear surface for the article of footwear.

The article of footwear of claim 7 wherein said plurality of opening are defined by 20 intersection of said upper channels and said lower channels.

The article of footwear of claim 7 wherein said midsole include a peripheral edge, said upper extending downwardly over said peripheral edge.

5 The article of footwear of claim 9 wherein at least one of said upper channels and said lower channels extends to said peripheral edge of said midsole to define an open end, said upper covering said open end.

10 The article of footwear of claim 10 wherein said outsole includes a peripheral wall extending upwardly about said midsole, said peripheral wall defining recessed portions leaving said open end uncovered, whereby water is permitted to freely exit the article of footwear from said channels.

15 The article of footwear of claim 7 wherein said outsole defines outlet ports placing said midsole in fluid communication with an exterior of the article of footwear, whereby said outlet ports allow passage of water from said channels.

The article of footwear of claim 7 wherein at least one of said upper channels and said lower channels defines an open end in a medial side of the article of footwear.

The article of footwear of claim 13 wherein at least one of said upper channels and said lower channels defines an open end in a rear of the article of footwear.

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The article of footwear of claim 13 wherein said upper channels extend longitudinally along said midsole and said lower channels extend lateral across said midsole.

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5 The article of footwear of claim 11 wherein said upper further includes reinforcing members, said reinforcing members being manufactured from a substantially non-elastic material, whereby said reinforcing members provide said upper with improved strength and stability in at least select regions.

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10 The article of footwear of claim 16 wherein said reinforcing members includes a heel piece reinforcing said upper in a heel region of said article of footwear.

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The article of footwear of claim 17 wherein said reinforcing members includes a toe piece reinforcing said upper in a toe region of said article of footwear.

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The article of footwear of claim 18 wherein said upper includes a liner disposed above said midsole, said liner being permeable to permit water to pass therethrough.

An article of footwear, comprising:

an upper including a permeable material permitting passage of water and a

5 plurality of reinforcing members affixed to said permeable material;

a midsole having an upper surface, a bottom surface and a peripheral edge, said midsole defining a plurality of upper channels and a plurality of lower channels, said upper channels and said lower channels intersecting to define an opening at each intersection placing said upper channels in fluid communication with said lower channels, said midsole being

10 attached to said upper; and

an outsole attached to said midsole, said outsole shaped to allow water to exit from said channels in said midsole.

The article of footwear of claim 20 wherein said upper extends along said

15 peripheral edge of said midsole and is secured to said bottom surface of said midsole.

The article of footwear of claim 21 wherein said upper channels extend substantially longitudinally along said midsole and said lower channels extend substantially laterally across said midsole.

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The article of footwear of claim 22 wherein at least one of said upper channels and said lower channels extends to said peripheral edge defining an open end, said permeable material covering said open end.

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The article of footwear of claim 23 further comprising a footbed having an upper surface and a lower surface, said footbed defining passages extending from said upper surface of said footbed to said lower surface of said footbed.

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10 The shoe of claim 24 wherein said upper further includes a top liner and a bottom liner, said top liner being attached to said mesh material, said bottom liner disposed above said midsole, said bottom liner being permeable and being attached to said top liner.

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15 The shoe of claim 25 wherein said outsole defines outlet ports, said outlet ports allowing water to exit said shoe from said lower channels.